

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175415  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 6125 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL OECD  
CAPS BUENOS AIRES JUL 22.  
QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 6125

PASS AGRICULTURE, PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY  
H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN EAGR

SUBJECT: MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE JULY 20 1977

USOECD USMTN USEEC

REF: A. GENEVA 5999, B. GENEVA 6000

1. SUMMARY: GROUP AGRICULTURE RECESSED JULY 20 UNTIL  
JULY 27 WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM. THROUGH-  
OUT TWO PLENARIES AND ONE RESTRICTED SESSION, MAJOR OB-  
STACLES TO AN AGREEMENT CONTINUED TO BE (1) DEMAND BY LDGS  
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PAGE 02 STATE 175415

THAT SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED  
TREATMENT BE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM;  
AND (2) INSISTENCE BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES (JAPAN IN PARTICULAR)  
ON DELAY OF AT LEAST ONE WEEK TO HAVE THE US PROPOSAL  
EXAMINED IN CAPITALS. THE GROUP RECESSED FOR A WEEK TO  
PERMIT ALL COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FROM  
CAPITALS. LDGS INDICATED THAT THEY WILL HAVE THEIR OWN

PROPOSAL BY THAT TIME (OR SOONER) TO COVER S&D QUESTIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP AGRICULTURE CONTINUED JULY 20 TO DISCUSS THE  
US PROPOSAL (REF A) FOR A REQUEST/OFFER PROCEDURE  
ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES  
HAD VERY FEW DIFFICULTIES WITH US PROPOSAL AND WERE  
FOR THE MOST PART HELPFUL. AUSTRALIA (FOGARTY), NEW  
ZEALAND (MCPhail), AND CANADA (GREY), ALL INDICATED THEY  
COULD SUPPORT PROCEDURES PROPOSED BY THE US,  
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DETAILS COULD BE IRONED OUT  
WITHOUT HOLDING UP PROGRESS. CANADA STATED HOWEVER THAT  
ITS AGREEMENT TO NOV 1 SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS WAS CON-  
DITIONAL ON PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF A TARIFF PLAN.

3. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE  
THE REQUEST EXERCISE, COUNTRIES SHOULD SUBMIT, AS IN THE  
KENNEDY ROUND, LISTS OF THOSE PRODUCTS EACH CONSIDERS  
AGRICULTURAL. MOST COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED THE  
RIGIDITY OF THE NOV 1 DEADLINE AND SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS  
WERE MADE THAT THE DATE BE MORE OF A "BEST EFFORTS" TARGET.

4. EC (PIZZUTI) WAS HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY DURING THE  
RESTRICTED SESSION, IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING  
SCOPE OF PROPOSAL (I.E. COVERAGE OF PRODUCTS IN SUBGROUPS.).  
EC EXPLAINED THAT EC WOULD NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY  
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PAGE 03 STATE 175415

REQUESTS ON MEASURES EVEN IF THEY INVOLVE ITEMS IN PRODUCT  
SUBGROUPS. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD PREVENT THINGS FROM  
FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS.

5. LDCS CAUSED MAJOR DIFFICULTY TO RAPID ACCEPTANCE OF  
US PROPOSAL BY (1) EXPRESSING "SURPRISE" AT THE SUDDENNESS  
OF THE PROPOSAL, AND INDICATING THEIR INABILITY TO RESPOND  
ON SHORT NOTICE, AND (2) DEMANDING THAT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS  
FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT BE INCORPORATED  
INTO THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURE. ARGENTINA  
(MARTINEZ) PLAYED ANTAGONISTIC AND DISRUPTIVE ROLE CONTINU-  
ALLY INTERVENING TO REJECT ALL NON-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS  
ON WAYS TO INCORPORATE S&D. HE TWICE INDICATED THAT A  
MEETING OF THE TNC MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO JUDGE "WHETHER  
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION ON S&D WERE BEING  
UPHELD". ARGENTINA RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM OTHER LDCS (E.G.,  
MEXICO, ADEANS, CACM), ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY  
WOULD BE FAR LESS OBSTRUCTIVE WERE IT NOT FOR ARGENTINA.  
BRAZIL, YUGOSLAVIA, AND INDIA TOOK A MORE MODERATE LINE  
INDICATING NEED TO MOVE FORWARD BUT EXPRESSING SPECIFIC  
CONCERNS ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE REQUEST PROPOSAL.

6. POINTS RAISED BY LDCS INCLUDED: (1) QUESTION OF WHETHER PLURILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED; (2) TRANSPARENCY OF REQUESTS AND OFFERS; (3) FLEXIBILITY FOR LDCS IN MEETING THE TIMETABLE; (4) PRINCIPLE OF "NON-RECIPROCITY"; (5) CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING REQUESTS; (6) PRIORITY IN SUBSTANCE AND SCOPE OF PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO LDCS; AND (7) AGREEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE TERMINATED UNTIL THE REQUESTS OF LDCS WERE SATISFIED. SEVERAL LDCS OBSERVED THAT THE US PROPOSAL WOULD ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE DCS ONLY AND THAT A SECTION TO COVER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS SHOULD BE ADDED. THIS THEY WOULD PREPARE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GROUP MEMBERS HOPEFULLY PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING JULY 27.

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PAGE 04 STATE 175415

7. U.S. (STARKEY) ATTEMPTED TO FIND WAY OUT FOR LDCS BY PROPOSING FOLLING LANGUAGE BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PROPOSAL: BEGIN TEXT: THE GROUP TOOK NOTE OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO ELABORATION OF S&D. THE GROUP AGREED THAT INTENSIVE EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE COMING MONTHS TO ELABORATE S&D IN ALL AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHERE FEASIBLE AND APPROPRIATE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT PRIORITY ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL, IF REQUESTED, AGREE TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THESE REQUESTS WITH A VIEW TO FULFILLING THE COMMITMENTS OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END TEXT. THIS WAS REJECTED BY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL WHO SAID PROCEDURES FOR LDCS MUST BE MORE PRECISE.

8. JAPAN (UKAWA) WAS VIRTUALLY SILENT THROUGHOUT MEETING EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT THEY HAD CABLED THE US PROPOSAL TO TOKYO AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT RECEIVE A REPLY FOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS. WHEN, AFTER MUCH DEBATE, THE GROUP AGREED THAT IT SHOULD RECONVENE ON JULY 27, JAPAN SAID THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO INDICATE THEIR POSITION THEN.

9. RESTRICTED MEETING OF KEY DC AND LDC COUNTRIES WILL PROBABLY BE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25 OR 26 TO TRY WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXT COVERING LDC CONCERNS. THE MORE MODERATE LDCS ARE FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE. ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO BE THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY. MAJORITY OF THE LDCS DO NOT SUPPORT ARGENTINA'S EXTREME STATEMENTS AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR. HOWEVER THUS

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PAGE 05 STATE 175415

FAR THE LDCS, PARTICULARLY THE LATIN AMERICANS, HAVE BEEN  
UNWILLING TO LEAVE ARGENTINA ISOLATED AND IT IS UNCLEAR  
WHETHER MODERATES WILL PREVAIL. CULBERT UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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